

## Technical Bulletin #98

# Restricted Entry Intervals after Pesticide Applications

## What is a Restricted Entry Interval?

A Restricted Entry Interval (REI) is the period of time you must wait before it is safe to go into a field that has been treated with a pesticide. Normally, the restricted entry interval is clearly stated on the pesticide label. If not, it usually ranges from 12 to 72 hours, 3 days, or more depending on the toxicity of the pesticide. The range for green labeled pesticides is 12 to 20 hours, 20 to 36 hours for blue, 36 to 60 hours for yellow, and 60 to 72 hours for red labels.



## Why do you need to have a REI?

Restricted entry intervals are necessary to prevent unhealthy exposure to pesticides. If a treated area is entered too soon to weed, hoe, or harvest, one may be susceptible to the pesticide through vapor inhalation or direct skin contact with the pesticide. To avoid exposure, applicators and farmers should inform people by posting warning signs that a pesticide application is taking place, and restrict entry to the treated plot. Warning signs are important because they:

- Keep workers out of areas being treated with pesticides and prevent them from being exposed to pesticides immediately after an application;
- Protect early-entry workers who are performing permitted activities in treated areas during an REI by including special instructions on the correct use of personal protective equipment; and
- Prevent unaware neighbors, especially pregnant women and children, from entering the plot.



## Placement of Warning Signs

Warning signs with the message “DO NOT ENTER – DANGER Restricted Area” and an image of a skull and crossbones should be placed on a stand board, or laminated in plastic and hung on the field’s front gate. It is important to place the signs throughout the treated area where they will be seen easily.



## Timing and Visibility of Warning Signs

- Post signs no less than 24 hours before the scheduled application of the pesticide.
- Keep signs posted during the application and throughout the restricted entry interval.
- Remove the signs within 3 days after the restricted entry interval has ended.

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